Authors Ask Quick Trial For La Follette

Vigilantes Declare Country Will Not Brook Further Delay

Memorialize Senate For His Recall

They Say Lesser Pacifists Take Courage From Unpunished Sedition

THE continued delays and evasions of Senator La Follette in bringing to an issue the investigation of his loyalty by the United States Senate, have raised up new and active enemies against him. The Vigilantes—the organization of leading authors of America—has struck out against him at the same time that anti-La Follette sentiment is being organized in his home state.

The Vigilantes have struck with a petition to Vice-President Marshall, setting forth vividly the harm which the Senator has done and is doing. In addition there were individual letters from forty authors, each pointing out caustically characteristics or acts of Mr. La Follette.

Meanwhile the organization of the Wisconsin Loyalty Legion, a fusion body aimed to act against all disloyal public officials, is proceeding rapidly. It is gunning first for the state's Senator, and hopes to induce the state to take action censuring him.

The Vigilantes' petition to Vice-President Marshall follows:

The Vigilantes, a non-partisan organization formed by the writers of America for patriotic purposes, respectfully petitions you to bring to the attention of the honorable body over which you preside; the inclosed letters of protest against the continued membership in the highest council of the nation of Robert M. La Follette.

The Vigilantes are passionately devoted to the principle of free speech and a free press. Nothing less than the conviction that Senator La Follette has abused both of these with the determined purpose of utilizing them to the injury of the United States, placing his individual views and personal egotism above the welfare of the country he is pledged to support, would move the writers of these letters to the step they are now taking.

In this crisis of our country many privileges must be abridged that the country may survive. Freedom of public utterance, where the same may injure the nation or bring comfort to its enemies, is one of these. the spokesman of a small minority, which holds the privilege of expressing individual views superior to aught else, should at least not be permitted to promulgate this unpatriotic theory as a high official of the country he flouts and denounces.

Insolent and Audacious

It has long been notorious that Senator La Follette will leave no effort untried which may interfere with the efficient prosecution by these United States of the war against autocracy. With insolence and audacity he has impugned the country's motives and condemned its acts. And chiefly because he is a member of the United States Senate, and continues to hold that membership while he spouts rebellion and sedition, he has become the leader and encourager of every species of anti-Americanism existing in this country, whether the same be pro-Germanism skulking in the by-ways or the less sinister but equally dangerous resistance founded upon pacifism or sheer cowardice.

As writers, whose business it is to keep themselves informed of the sentiment of the country, we can testify that not a seditious utterance of Senator La Follette has been allowed to lie fallow. All the un-American publications still allowed to continue their insidious propaganda find in him a wealth of that treason they no longer dare express from their own pens. The Hearsts, the Vierecks, the Harrises and their like publish all of his writings and speeches in full and in the most prominent sections of their journals. They extol him to the skies, they defend him against the patriots who would unmask his sophistries, and they clearly convey to their readers that there can be no real danger in defiance of the will of the country, as that has been expressed by the chosen representatives of the people, so long as La Follette is permitted to enjoy the honors, the emoluments and the privileges of membership in the highest council of the state.

That this situation is a menace to the integrity and safety of the nation, that it does much to prevent the solidarity of sentiment needed to wage an efficient war, is sufficiently patent, and justifies the Vigilantes, we are firmly convinced, in trespassing upon your valuable time and that of the honorable gentlemen associated with you.

What Members Say

Following are excerpts from the letters of the members:

Lawrence F. Abbott—If soap box orators in the streets of New York are forbidden, as they ought to be forbidden, to attack the course of the government, what shall be said of the Senator who uses his franking privilege to disseminate attacks upon that government?

Ralph Henry Barbour—So long as Robert M. La Follette retains his seat in the United States Senate, so long shall we hear the echoing mouthings of his disciples.

Abbie Farwell Brown—The pacifists are sowing sedition—both those who act from sincere but untimely principles and those who are traitors that wish to see mischief triumph. They should all be restrained. Certainly none such should be allowed to continue in office, where their influence is incalculable.

Porter Emerson Browne—What excuse can the American nation offer to the heartbroken father, to the weeping mother of the American soldier who has made for that nation the supreme sacrifice, when at the same time it tolerates within its Capitol at Washington so frank, so magnificent a seditionist as the Hon. (God help us!) Robert M. La Follette.

Gelett Burgess—Robert M. La Follette by his words and influence has proved himself to be if not actually in league with our enemies, at least guilty of a deliberate attempt to impede the prosecution of the war; and by his pernicious example he has encouraged others, openly hostile and dangerous, to persist in the attempt to nullify our national effort.

Amelia Josephine Burr—Ff one is unable to co-operate with the government in a time of crisis like the present, it seems, to me at least, that it is his duty to relinquish his association with the government. A man's personal ideals are a matter that lies between his own conscience and his God. A third party is concerned in his public actions—his country.

Duty to Work for War

Ellis Parker Butler—Every citizen of the United States is at war with the German Empire by virtue of the acts of the Senate and the declaration of the President of the United States. We are not to-day deciding whether we shall or shall not be at war—we are at war. We are not conducting peace negotiations—we are at war. When we are at war it is the duty of every citizen to work for the success of the war (which is his) and to refrain from whatever may aid or comfort the enemy or spread sedition, disloyalty or treason or weaken the united spirit necessary for the winning of the war.

Bliss Carman—The disrespect now incurred by this one obnoxious member will be visited upon you and the gentlemen who suffer him to go unrebuked. That the offender is a man in high office makes his offense the more unpardonable, since it gives to hundreds of lesser offenders excuse for their indifference and disloyalty.

Theodosia Garrison—By his expulsion or suspension from the Senate the work of preparedness would be speeded and others of his opinion would be discouraged from attempting to spread sedition.

E. E. Harriman charged LaFollete with being a more effective enemy of this country than the average colonel in the German army, possibly than many German generals.

Emerson Hough—Such a man does not belong in the United States Senate to-day. Too much time is being wasted over him. He ought to be thrown out, so that we could go about our business of winning the war.

Wallace Irwin—If God will save us from the fate of misguided Russia, coaxed to ruin by Potsdam wolves in pacifist clothing, we must begin now by silencing our sweet-voiced enemies at home. What use to cry "Hang him!" against a German fanatic with a bomb when a Senator of the United States endangers our national being with ideas more destructive than a million bombs could ever be?

"Others Are Out of Step"

Burgess Johnson—Is it possible that Mamma Wisconsin is gazing out of her lofty window upon the loyal ranks at Washington and saying proudly: "Every one is out of step except my Robert"? . . . I believe that his associates in Congress are being unfair to me and not wholly true to their trust in permitting him to march at all.

Meredith Nicholson—We owe it to the boys we are sending out to fight for us to maintain a strong line of national defence at home. The toleration in our highest law-making body of a man who speaks the Berlin language is an insult to every American soldier and sailor and to every loyal American citizen at home.

Harrison Rhodes—He wastes time and should be got rid of. There is no longer any question that the country as a whole disagrees with him. It wants the war carried swiftly and effectively to victory and to peace.

Edgar Saltus—At the Board of Health persons with contagious disorders are not merely shown the door. For the good of the community they are put behind other doors. Pacifism is a cognate distemper. The infected should be put away.

Marion Couthouy Smith—Mr. La Follette stands practically alone in the Senate as the exponent of a definite pacifism which, if followed out, would betray the world into the hands of the common enemy of democracy and humanity. In Russia to-day we see the work of this sinister undermining force.

Julian Street—May I respectfully inform you of my hope that the Senate will find some means of ridding itself of Senator Robert M. La Follette on the ground that his activities are subversive of the interest and welfare of the United States, and, further than merely ridding itself of Senator LaFollette, that it may hold him up as an example to show our own citizens and those of other countries that the United States Senate sets itself solidly against sedition, wherever found?"

Augustus Thomas—In a somewhat similar situation raised by Vallandigham's opposition to President Lincoln's war policies, Mr. Lincoln wrote: "Must I shoot a poor boy who deserts from the army and must I not touch a hair of the head of the wily agitator who persuaded him to desert?"

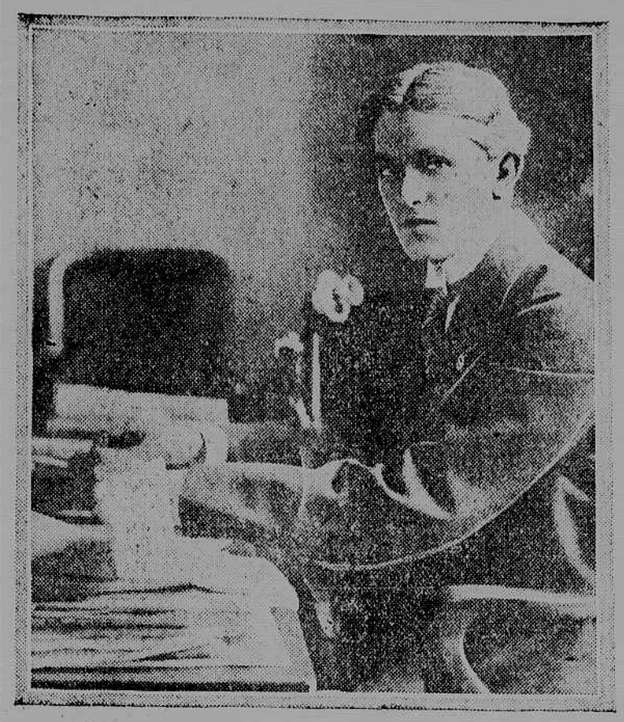
Charles Hanson Towne—The country is sick under the heavy burden of war with the strongest military power on earth, and the gentleman from Wisconsin would shake the invalid, not into section, but into inaction. . . . La Follette has cried from the roof tops that our agony is for naught. Yet we know it is for everything that is sacred and just and right. Put La Follette out, He is with the enemies of America.

Socialist Rule in Schenectady Ends After Two Experiments

Geo. R. Lunn, Now Democratic Representative, Responsible for Many Municipal Schemes —Split With Party

Fought for City Ice and Coal, Laid Out Parks and Built New Schools — Republicans Return to Control

Schenectady has had four years of Socialist government, and has ended the experiment for the time at least. Among its officials have been many of the country's leading Socialists. Among its experiences have been attempts to work out several of their pet doctrines. The time is a good one for casting up the account. Has Socialism succeeded? Has it saved money, health or comfort? Has it improved the city or its inhabitants? How much of such failures as it has had have been due to faulty theory, and how much to faulty practice and persons? These are some of the questions that this answers.



Ex-Mayor George R. Lunn

By Douglas K. Miller

SCHENECTADY'S government lost its last vestige of Socialism on New Year's Day. Not a single Socialist was elected to office November 6 last, and Republicans once more come into full control of city affairs and of county affairs, too.

Has Socialism been a failure in Schenectady—if the government provided by Dr. Lunn and fellow members of the Socialist party can rightfully be termed Socialism?

Answering such a question involves more than a mere consideration of the outward activity of Socialist officeholders and a comparison of tax rates in recent years. It requires a study of the inside government which ruled Schenectady four years, the motives which prompted city activities and the relation of the Socialist local to officeholders. Were the Socialists sincerely working for the best interests of Schenectady, or were they using the Schenectady city government to experiment in the theories of the Socialist book of rules?

George R. Lunn the Leader

Mayor George R. Lunn, preacher, publisher, coal merchant, orator, twice Socialist Mayor and now Democratic Representative in Congress, has been the sparking plug of two Schenectady city administrations. In fact, he has been so active that Socialism in Schenectady has come to mean "Lunnism." Dr. Lunn himself is interesting. He is tall, thin, distinguished-looking. He has an engaging smile. He jumps from the comic to the serious between breaths, forces home arguments with Rooseveltian gestures. He is impetuous, mirthful, has boyish enthusiasm, forces himself into all manner of predicaments and smilingly bluffs his way out.

Who City Ticket Elected

The fall of 1911 found Dr. Lunn the Socialist nominee for Mayor under a special dispensation of the party chiefs, which allowed him to run for office without putting in a two years' dues-paying apprenticeship. He was never in the novice class in that party. The campaign was one of the most warlike in Schenectady's history, with the street speakers daring opponents to start slander actions. Lunn was elected, becoming the first Socialist Mayor in New York State, and with him a complete city ticket went into control of city affairs.

Long before taking office Dr. Lunn came face to face with a party precept, which later split the party into two wrangling sections. It was over the appointment of city officers. The book of rules said outsiders could not hold city office, and it demanded that the Socialist local name those selected for appointive office. Men, women and young people, citizens and aliens, who made up the party membership, acclaimed boisterously their right to select the Mayor-elect's co-workers. It was a heinous crime against Socialism to name non-Socialists to office.

Dr. Lunn proceeded mirthfully to invite the wrath of the party powers by naming W. Thomas Wooley, Democratic City Engineer of Auburn, to the office of City Engineer, and Frank Cooper, former member of the Democratic State Committee, to the office of Corporation Counsel. He also engaged Charles A. Mullen, of Milwaukee, to run the Public Works Department; he also chose Walter Lippman, Socialist writer of New York, now an editor of "The New Republic," and connected with government publicity in Washington, to be his own secretary. Socialists became feverish with wrath and indignation.

Throughout his first two years it was a question whether Dr. Lunn could hold the Socialist local at bay while he conducted city affairs as he saw fit. Through it all Socialists forgot to attack non-Socialists in their ardor to heap criticism on the Mayor.

Socialists Flock to Schenectady

Probably a more interesting group of economists were never assembled in a city of Schenectady's size than those who rushed to the Electric City to take a hand in the Socialist governed city. Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, electrical wizard, already in Schenectady; the Rev. Robert Bakeman, Morris Hillquit, John Macy, Charles A. Mullen, Walter E. Kruesi, Fred W. Bentley and Walter Lippman were among those whose Socialist training led them to the election spoils of 1911.

Dr. Steinmetz is, with the exception of Thomas A. Edison, probably the best known electrical engineer in the world. He was president of the Board of Education in Lunn's first administration and president of the city's Planning Commission. He was reappointed president of the Education Board in Lunn's second administration, when he also served as president of Common Council.

Morris Hillquit, at one time called one of the "big four in socialism," went to Schenectady to assist the law department in opposing the Schenectady Railway's effort to eliminate six tickets for a quarter. Hillquit and his assistants lost the fight.

John Macy became Lunn's secretary when Lippman left. Mr. Macy's wife was the guardian of Helen Keller, noted deaf, dumb and blind student. Mr. Macy's principal interest was in Miss Keller, and had he remained in Schenectady long Miss Keller would have gone to that city.

Mullen Introduces New Paving

Mr. Mullen, who became Commissioner of Public Works, was one of the wealthiest men in the administration. Previously he had been a paving contractor, and after leaving Schenectady he again became a private contractor. Mr. Mullen introduced Schenectady to the "Mullen type" of asphalt. It has a foundation, upon which was placed a three-inch wearing surface. It contained no "binder" course. By eliminating this expensive centre course the cost of asphalt paving was reduced from $2.16 a square yard to $1.16 a square yard in the first administration. Since then the cost of pavement has advanced to $1.50 a yard, and very recently, because of the increased cost of materials, the price has gone to more than $2.

Lunn Clashes With Advisers

These men were the leaders and advisers in the first Lunn administration. All of them were Socialists, true and tried, who had absorbed the principles of Marxian Socialism. All were believers in class distinction and all of them demanded upon accession to power that the city be conducted by the "working class."

Most of them opposed Mayor Lunn in his view that city government could not be conducted by a Socialist local, that principles could be laid down and abstract policies decided upon, but that the actual conduct of city affairs must be vested in responsible officeholders. These men, with few exceptions, sided with the rank and file of the party in a common belief that the Mayor and all other elected officials were merely servants of the Socialist local.

It was not uncommon in Socialist party meetings to have a bricklayer, teamster or ash collector castigate the school board for buying 15-inch rules for the workshops in the schools. Once a non-citizen took the Mayor to task for engaging a renowned city planner to outline a comprehensive park system.

Socialist party members applied the mob rule to all matters concerning the city. No city project was too large to be discussed by the local; no proposition too small to demand that the members, whose dues were paid, should advise officeholders.

And all of the time that the officeholders were warding off attacks from within the organization they were meeting rebuff at the hands of those outside the party. The petty, acrid party disputes, which started with the distribution of "patronage," finally warped the Socialist local so out of shape that the state executive committee investigated.

It was about a year ago that the break came. The charter was withdrawn. Every member of the local was expelled.

Lunn Wins Seat in Congress

Long before the expulsion of the two hundred paid-up members of the Socialist local, it is believed, Dr. Lunn had decided to become a candidate for Representative in Congress in the 13th District. He had been the Socialist candidate for this office in 1913, running a hopeless race in a district where Socialists showed strength only in Schenectady city.

So non-Lunnites have charged the breaking of the Socialist party in Schenectady to some clever manipulation of affairs by the Mayor within the party. Soon after his separation from the local a campaign was launched to make him Democratic nominee for Representative. Democratic leaders jumped at the opportunity to bolster their election chances by naming the Socialist Mayor, and a year ago Dr. Lunn was elected to Congress.

He is still Democratic Representative from Schenectady, Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton counties.

It did not take Mayor Lunn and his Socialist cohorts long after assuming office January 1, 1912, to put into operation several municipal ventures which were designed to "meet the needs of the mass of people."

Courts Squelch City Ice Venture

A municipal ice plant was created and a large ice house was leased by the city and filled with Mohawk River ice. Later ice was imported from Troy and sold just below the market price. A Supreme Court order restrained the city from continuing the venture. Although the city's legal representatives presented as their defence that ice was congealed water, that its chemical symbol, H2O, was the same as that of water, and that the city was permitted to distribute water, the courts put an end to the ice business.

Then followed the municipal coal business, by which George R. Lunn and associates" endeavored to undersell Schenectady coal merchants. Quantities of coal were bought and shipped into Schenectady and delivered to purchasers, generally in half-ton and quarter-ton lots. A second injunction restrained this venture.

Charities Commissioner Walter Kruesi provided the city with four ventures—the municipal store, the lodging house, the employment bureau and the municipal farm. A building was fitted up as sleeping quarters and homeless men, who had been sleeping on the concrete floor of the city lockup, were thereafter sent to the lodging house, where their "pedigrees" were taken and lodging provided for not more than three successive nights. The lodgers were asked to chop wood for an hour or two each morning.

A non-partisan city planning commission was formed after the Common Council appropriated $300,000 for park lands. The issuing of bonds for parks was the first legislative battle waged by the Socialist aldermen, and Dr. Lunn regarded the final passage of the ordinance as his first great success in office. The planning commission was created and John Nolan, widely known park designer, was employed to determine the location of Schenectady parks and roughly to plan their development.

The Lunn administration created Schenectady's only station in Crescent Park. It is a fixture, although political opponents have criticised the expenditure of $11,000 for the structure.

Bonds were issued to bridge Cotton Factory Hollow, and the bridge at Hullet Street, which had provision only for trolley cars, was widened to permit vehicular and unrestricted pedestrian traffic to cross into Mount Pleasant from the upper State Street section.

Well Equipped Schools Built

Five new school buildings, said to be the most fully equipped schools in the state, were constructed by the Socialists. Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz was the guiding force in designing them. They contain fresh air rooms, gymnasiums, domestic science rooms, manual training rooms, rooms for anæmic children, assembly halls and many other improvements not found in school buildings a few years ago.

When ordered by the State Health Department to rid the Mohawk River of Schenectady sewage, the Socialist administration started a sewage disposal plant, designing one large enough for a city of 150,000 or larger and constructing enough of it to provide for the needs of the city. An action is still pending trial as the result of alleged changes in specifications, putting the contractor to added expense.

A garbage reduction plant was built and municipal collections were instituted. It was believed that the receipts from by-products would nearly pay the cost of operating the plant, but difficulty has been experienced in maintaining collection schedules and receipts at the plant have fallen far below estimates.

Throughout the four years of the Lunn administrations efforts were made to obtain the widening of a crosstown thoroughfare, in order to relieve congestion on streets leading to the American Locomotive Works. An ordnance was introduced and finally defeated.

Tax Rate Forced Up

Tax rates of the last few years have reflected the large expenditures of the first Lunn administration. The tax rate for 1912 was $2.33. This figure was based on expenditures of 1911, the year just preceding the entry of Socialists into city affairs. In 1913, the tax rate, representing the first year of the Socialist administration, was $3.12, an increase of 79 points. In 1914, when expenditures of the second year of the Lunn administration, were raised by taxation, the rate remained $3.12. Succeeding tax rates have been: 1915, $371; 1916, $3.26; 1917, $3.05. The figures of the last two years show that economy has been exercised in the second Lunn administration.

Queries and Answers

Hapsburgs' Jewish Blood

E. S.—Can you inform me through your "Questions and Answers" column whether there is any truth in the story that the House of Hapsburg has a strain of Jewish blood, and that through them many of the ruling houses of Europe have the same heritage? I have been told that the Jewish strain comes through the family of one of the Popes, who was a Jew by birth, but later was Christianized.

The assumption that the Habsburgs count Jews among their ancestors has partly an historical and partly a legendary foundation. In the early Middle Ages there lived in Rome the Jewish family of Pierleoni, who had accumulated great wealth. A son of this family, Pietro Pierleoni, embraced the Christian religion and became a monk in the famous Monastery of St. Benedict, at Clugny. His great learning, cleverness and neophytic zeal gained him great influence, and it did not take very long before he was made abbot and superior of the monastery in Clugny, and he thus became the head of the Benedictine monasteries, which, under the name of the Order of the Benedictines, played an important part in the events of that time. Little wonder, therefore, that the Abbot Petrus Leonis, who in the meantime had been raised to the rank of Cardinal and as papal legate in France and England also represented the interests of Pope Honorius II, was elected Pope of the Roman Church. As such he assumed the name of Anacletus II.

This happened in the year 1130, and for twenty-four years the former Jew occupied the chair of St. Peter. The abbot's family, too, had in the meantime become converted to Catholicism, and shortly after, when Anacletus, upon the defeat of Innocent II, the anti-Pope in opposition to him, had entered Romo and there fortified his rule, he invested his kin with the dignity of princes.

Now, legend tells that when Count Albrecht (or Albert) III, the real founder of the House of Habsburg, returned to Rome from a crusade he fell in love with the Pope's niece, the former Jewess, and took her for his wife with the Pope's consent. The official genealogical table of the Habsburgs designates Albrecht's wife as a Roman woman and relative of a Pope, but does not mention anything concerning her descent. It seems, therefore, very probable that she was a Pierleoni. Count Albrecht III, also called the Rich, died in 1199. He was succeeded by his son, Rudolph II, Count of Habsburg, whose son, Albrecht IV (died 1240), was the father of the later Emperor Rudolph. From emperor to emperor, or, rather, from King Rudolph, descend all the Habsburg-Lorrainers of the present day. As all the ruling houses are, through intermarriage with the Habsburg-Lorrainers, intimately related, it is obvious that through them Jewish blood has come into the veins of all European dynasties.

1918 or 1919?

Is the year 1918 completed with December 31 or begun with January 1? In other words, is 1918 or 1919 begun with the present January 1?

As in geography and navigation, longitude is measured from some arbitrary line, such as the meridian through Greenwich, so in historical chronology dates are fixed by giving their distance from some arbitrary point of time, usually chosen because of some remarkable occurrence that signalled it. Such a fixed point, or epoch, forms the beginning of an era. The Christian era starts at the birth of Christ, on January 1, and although the exact period of the event is conjectural, historical chronology uses this unit, among others, to measure the distance in point of time and to fix dates. From the above it will be seen that December 31, 1917, means that counting from the supposed birth of Christ 1917 years were fully completed years, and with the present January 1 was begun the 1918th year, which, in its turn, will be completed with the following December 31.

How to Tell the Speed of Trains

R. T.—A distinct click is heard every time the car wheel passes over a rail joint. With watch in hand, count the number of clicks in twenty seconds, and that will be the number of miles the train is going in an hour.

Yiddish

G. W.—What is Yiddish?

Yiddish is a term used to designate a language which is spoken at the present moment by some millions of people. Strictly speaking, Yiddish is not a language, nor a dialect, but a jargon—the jargon used by Judeo-German communities dwelling chiefly in Germany and Russia, and by the immigrants coming from those countries to the United States. Yiddish owes its existence to the persecution to which the Jews were subjected in Germany at the time of the Reformation. Its essential basis is high German, with an admixture of Hebraic and Slavic elements.

Ambassador

H. L.—(1). In what is the title of ambassador superior to that of minister? (2) Since when was the title of ambassador given to our representatives to foreign governments? (3) In which foreign countries have we ambassadors?

(1) Ambassador is the highest diplomatic officer. Ambassadors, in addition to the usual privileges accorded representatives of foreign governments, have the special one of personal audience with the head of the state to which they are accredited.

(2) In the days immediately preceding the establishment of the American Republic the officers who were sent to Europe on diplomatic missions were officially termed commissioners. When the diplomatic service was permanently organized the title of the highest representatives was made "envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary," subordinate representatives being given the titles of ministers or ministers resident. In 1893 Congress passed an act providing that whenever a foreign government elected its representative at Washington to the rank of ambassador the United States government would raise its representative to that foreign government to the same rank.

(3) In Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy.

The Little Soldier

By Maurice Level

Translated by William L. McPherson

This story has an idyllic touch. Maurice Level is usually brusque, sardonic, soberly realistic. But in this instance he discloses a strong vein of poetic sensibility. The winning, tenderly pathetic figure of his little soldier stands out graciously against the sombre background of war and its experiences. It is in work like this—simple, natural, exquisitely balanced—that current French war fiction reaches its perfection of form.

Before the war the technique of the French short story writer was equally admirable. But it was lavished on material and situations of a more tawdry kind. The war has breathed new life into literature and broadened its point of view. To the resurgence of the heroic, of faith, courage, simplicity and the fundamental emotions and virtues, we owe also a new spirit in letters. It is that spirit which necessarily influences the work of writers who try to reflect the war's reactions. And thus the best French fiction of to-day has gained a breadth of sympathy and vision which it has seldom possessed in the days before the war.

SHE LISTENED, her elbow on the table, her chin in her hands. While he spoke he gazed at her with eager eyes—the eyes of amorous youth. He was telling her the story of his life—of his brief memories of boyhood, of college, the ending of his studies; the war, his ardent desire to fight, his mothers' fears and, finally, his dream of fighting realized.

She interrupted him:

"How old are you?"

"Eighteen years."

She smiled and laid her finger on the narrow ribbon which he wore on his coat.

"What is this?"

"That is the emblem of those wounded in battle."

"Have you been wounded?"

"Yes," he answered, without attaching any importance to it.

Moved by the thought of this mere boy stricken down, lying in a ditch, she murmured, with an air of almost maternal interest and concern:

"Poor little fellow! And when were you wounded?"

"At the Marne."

"Was it a serious wound."

He answered negligently, pointing to his breast:

He Told Her How He Had Been Wounded

"A piece of shell went through there."

And as she insisted, anxious to have all the details, he told her what he knew about the war: The hard retreat; the triple daily marches to the rear; then the advance, the roads encumbered with wreckage and bodies, the trees uprooted; the men struggling against fatigue and sleep and able to see nothing ahead of them but a dead plain and a gray horizon; the sudden thunder of the artillery; the blow which one never sees or knows of, but which strikes one on the ground; then the awakening to consciousness at a relief station, removal to a distant hospital, long months of rest under a gracious sky, convalescence and, finally, the furlough home.

She took one of his hands in hers and repeated:

"Poor little fellow! And will you return to the front?"

"I hope to."

They got up. The wood, this springtime night, was filled with shadows and perfumes. She walked along, leaning on his arm, stroking with her ungloved hand the rude cloth of his cloak. At moments, when the moon shone on them from between the trees, she glanced admiringly at his delicate little figure, his shining eyes and his beardless cheeks. He scarcely spoke now, forgetting the war, surrendering himself to the tenderness of the moment, seeking words and promises, but finding only soft pressures and sighs with which to express the feelings of his heart.

Then suddenly the sky became black, the trees tossed, the wind bent the small ones double and whistled among the great oaks with a noise like bullets. She said:

"A storm is coming. We must hurry home."

"Why? It is so pleasant here."

In fact, they were happy there, in spite of the storm—happy to be alone in the wood, so alone that the wood seemed to belong to them. She smiled as they made a little detour from the main path.

"If I were not with a soldier I should be afraid."

These words filled him with pride and he pressed her arm softly. Then the rain began to fall, and they sought shelter under some trees. With her thin dress and her light taffeta mantle she could not help trembling. They thought that they were sheltered, but the drops reached them gradually and then the shower turned into a steady downpour. He expressed concern about her being so lightly clothed. She answered:

"That is nothing. But how about you?"

"Me? I have been in worse storms than this."

She excused herself for having asked him such a question.

"It was foolish, of course. You are a soldier."

Rain Beat Through The Leafy Covering

Time passed. The rain beat through their leafy covering. The far-off street lamps seemed enveloped in a watery haze. No conveyances were in sight.

"We must go home, all the same," she said.

"You are right," he replied. "But you cannot walk through the rain this way. You are already drenched. You are cold. It is dark. Nobody will see you. I am going to put my cloak over your shoulders."

She refused.

"And how about yourself?"

"Nonsense. Let me do it, please."

He unbuttoned his cloak and softly laid it over her. This time it was he who was maternal in manner. They hurried along, smiling, through the rain, but each one worried about the other.

"Are you all right?"

"All right. And you? Aren't you cold?"

"Not at all."

"I should never forgive myself if you were taken ill again."

He Thought Nothing, But Gazed at Her

At a roadhouse they found a carriage. As he shivered a little she put her hand on his jacket.

"You are wet through."

"It is nothing at all."

"When you get home you must change your clothes at once."

"I promise you that I will."

She heard his teeth chatter.

"I am heartbroken. If you should fall ill——"

"But you didn't catch cold; that was the only important thing."

He thought of nothing else than gazing at her, of cuddling up against her, stroking affectionately the big cloak which for a few minutes had sheltered her. On parting with him she said:

"Above all, let me hear from you soon."

Then he kissed her hand and let her enter her house.

A week went by without her hearing anything from him. She did not dare to go herself and inquire about him. One day she passed by the house in which he lived. They had put straw in the street. That evening she decided to telephone.

They told her that the little soldier was ill—in fact, very ill. And one morning she received a letter, the envelope bordered in black. He was dead. Stupefied, she read and re-read that frightful line:

"Jean Louis Verrier, corporal of the 7th Infantry."

Her little soldier! Her poor little soldier! She followed the funeral procession, her eyes fixed on the hearse, which went jolting along draped with a tri-color bunting and with the blue cloak with which he had covered her.

Afterward a desire to know something more about this poor youth, of whom she really knew so little, led her to pass again by the house in which he had lived. Some men had just removed the furnishings. She approached the janitress and said to her:

The Woman Sighed, He Went Quickly

"Mon Dieu, but he went quickly."

"Alas!" sighed the good woman. "They had little hope that he would pull through."

"It was his wound, I suppose?"

"Oh! his wound—that would never have carried him off. That would have healed. But he had weak lungs. In spite of that, they could never prevent him from taking risks. All those fatigues, all those hardships—they were too much for him. He got pneumonia. He was passed along for six months from one hospital to another, refusing always to be mustered out. They thought that he was better. He must have committed some imprudence. He got pneumonia again, and that finished him."

She answered: "Thank you, madame."

And thinking of the spirit of that adolescent, who had marched toward death for a beautiful ideal, and then, for the simple joy of being gallant toward a woman, had carried with him to the tomb no other trophies than a piece of ribbon and a woman's smile, she sighed:

"He was a man."

Child Training at Home

By Mothers Who Have Been Kindergarten Teachers

This is the eleventh of a series of articles prepared under the direction of the United States Bureau of Education and the National Kindergarten Association. Each is written by some woman who has put her training into practice with her own children, and embodies the wisdom she has learned. If you find this series of articles helpful to you, cut them out and pass them to other mothers and thus aid Uncle Sam in reaching all the mothers of the country.

Work Can Be Made Into Play

By Mrs. Lenore R. Ranus

The play instinct is inborn in all children the world over; it is nature's own method for developing the senses, the muscles and all bodily growth. Play is even more than this; it is the outlet of expression of the child's inner life. Many faults as well as virtues may be discovered while watching children at play. Perhaps a mother will find that her child is selfish or rude, and it is easy to discover a generous disposition and a good temper in the course of a play hour.

Games are the expression of the play spirit and toys are the instruments necessary for the expression of this activity of child life. As a farmer needs garden tools to do his work, so a child needs toys for his play—or work, which play really is to him. And if toys are not provided ready made he will invent them in order to be able to express his play spirit and put it into action.

Health Is Important

All play depends upon the physical condition of the child. A normal, healthy child plays all the time, is easily interested in his toys and as he grows older invents games with them. If a child plays little, cannot easily be interested in his toys, will not play alone and is cross, look first to his physical condition, then begin a course of training, or directed play. Start with the suggestion, "Why not build a high steeple?" or "Make mother a train of cars with your blocks." Often, especially in the case of an only child, if mother can enter into the play-spirit and play hide-and-seek, or march and sing, or even build with the blocks, it is such a treat and often a real help in promoting a readiness to play alone when mother must go back to her work.

Almost every child wants to help mother sweep, dust, make beds, wipe the silver or run errands. Make play out of the work, and yet let the little one feel he is really doing something. With tiny babes too little even to walk, a mother can make play out of work. Have the high chair or the bassinette or carriage in the room where you are working and keep baby busy with toys. For instance, if you are working in the kitchen, let the baby have a big spoon, clothespin, tin covers or anything new and safe, but always keep those things for the kitchen. If he is allowed to have them all the time they soon lose their interest and he becomes restless and unhappy.

Making a Little Surprise.

A sense of newness, even with old toys, makes them desirable to a child. Children need change and variety because their power of concentration is not fully developed.

This is the plan I use with success with my own little girl. Her box of dominoes, her nest of blocks and her box of building blocks (composed of sixteen cubes), I keep on a shelf in a closet out of sight. I also keep some picture-books and toys out of sight. Then when the time comes, as it does so many times a day, when Little Girl says, "What I do now, muvver?" I go to the closet for a surprise. If I give her the blocks, it is always with a suggestion for making something with them. She now comes to me and asks for "A s'prise, muvver." When she tires of the blocks I have her pick them all up, ready to put away, before she can have another "surprise."

Sometimes for days at a time she does not ask for a surprise, and then when I do bring out the dominoes, for instance, she is as delighted as if they were brand new. Her dolls I separate in groups. If she has four I put away two, and at the end of a week I bring out these two and put away the two she has been playing with. If you follow this plan with all toys, grouping them and keeping one set put away, you will always keep the little ones interested and happy.